

*East Elloe
Rural District Council*



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Sanitary Inspector
for the
Year 1952

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. MILLER, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

W. B. HITCHINGS, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. H. MOTLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food.

Clerk :

D. M. TAYLOR

East Elloe Rural District Council


PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor H. L. NEAVERSON.

Members :

Councillor J. G. BAKER (From May, 1952).
,, R. G. BARWELL.
,, F. BAXTER.
,, Rev. C. V. BROWNE-WILKINSON.
,, J. W. COOPER.
,, J. CUTHBERT.
,, H. W. FARROW, J.P.
,, T. FINES.
,, S. GARNER.
,, N. A. GRIMWOOD.
,, C. HESKETH.
,, C. HOPKINS (From May, 1952).
,, A. G. HOWLETT.
,, Mrs. A. H. S. HUNTER.
,, A. G. LENTON, J.P.
,, T. H. LOGIN (From May, 1952).
,, J. MUNSON.
,, G. H. PARKER (From May, 1952).
,, C. I. PATCHETT.
,, H. PIGGINS.
,, T. H. ROSE.
,, C. ROWELL.
,, T. W. SELBY.
,, A. TEMPLE (Until May, 1952).
,, A. TUBBS (From May, 1952).
,, R. WESTON.
,, A. WHITE.



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East Elloe Rural District Council,
Mattimore House,
Holbeach.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1952

To the Chairman and Members of
The East Elloe Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the report for the year 1952.

Generally speaking the health of the district remains satisfactory, although sporadic outbreaks of gastro-intestinal infections continue to occur.

An easing of the post-war housing shortage is now becoming evident, due mainly to the Council's housing schemes. I feel that the time has now arrived when more definite action should be taken regarding houses which are unfit for human habitation and which are incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost.

I am, Madam, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RAYMOND MILLER,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is (acres) 84,597

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year
Home Population figure (used in the calcu-
lation of the birth and death rates) is ... 22,690

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1953 £72,104

Sum represented by 1d. rate £278 16s. 9d.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate books is
7,001 and is distributed as follows :—

Parish	Total Houses	Est. Pop.	Area in Acres
Holbeach	2043	6621	22,666
Long Sutton	939	3043	3,931
Sutton Bridge	895	2901	6,164
Fleet	452	1465	6,837
Gedney	672	2178	11,679
Gedney Hill	132	428	1,867
Lutton	275	891	3,793
Sutton St. Edmund	165	535	4,670
Sutton St. James	208	674	2,707
Little Sutton	47	152	743
Tydd St. Mary	278	901	4,637
Whaplode	554	1796	} 10,688
Whaplode Drove	249	807	
Wingland	92	298	4,217
Totals	7001	22690	84,597

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	195	158	353
Illegitimate	9	14	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Live Births	204	172	376
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Adjusted Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated Mid-Year Home
Population 17.90

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	—	5
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Still Births	5	1	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births 15.71

Deaths

Male	Female	Total
145	102	247

Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of estimated Mid-Year Home
Population 10.34

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths from pregnancy, child birth and abortion 1
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) births 2.61

Infantile Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	7	5	12
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	7	6	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death of infants under 4 weeks of age :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	6	3	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	34.57
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	...	...	33.99
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	43.48

Death Rates of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	23.94
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	...	...	25.50
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	—	—

Deaths from :

	Male	Female	Total
Cancer ...	22	16	38
Measles ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—	1

Comments on Vital Statistics.

	E.E.R.D.C.	England & Wales
Birth Rate (Live births) ...	17.90	15.3
Death Rate (All causes) ...	10.34	11.3
Death Rate of infants under 1 year ...	34.57	27.6

The Vital Statistics reveal that a satisfactory level of health is being maintained in the district.

Cancer continues to present a serious problem to which, in the present state of medical knowledge, the Preventive Medical Service can offer very little assistance.

NUMBERS OF DEATHS FROM PARTICULAR CAUSES

IN EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT IN 1952

Cause of Death						Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	15	8	23
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	19	14	33
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	21	8	29
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	23	20	43
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	16
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	15	23	38
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Totals						145	102	247

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Excluding cases of Tuberculosis, which are dealt with separately, 170 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year.

Infectious disease	No. of Cases.
Scarlet Fever	9
Whooping Cough	23
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Measles	105
Diphtheria	—
Pneumonia	11
Dysentery	—
Enteric Fever	2
Paratyphoid Fever	3
Erysipelas	9
Meningococcal Infection	—
Food Poisoning	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Total	170

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups.

Disease	Age Group in years								Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Not known	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	3	5	1	—	—	—	9
Whooping Cough	—	9	5	9	—	—	—	—	23
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	13	12	59	10	4	7	—	105
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	1	2	—	—	6	—	11
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Paratyphoid Fever .	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	2	9
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia .	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3

COMMENTS :

Typhoid Fever.

Following the occurrence of two unconnected cases, all possible tests were made and precautions taken, to prevent the spread of infection.

Paratyphoid Fever.

Three cases occurred in the district. A widespread and thorough investigation was carried out involving numerous laboratory specimens. Food manufacturing premises, which supplied each of the three cases, were thoroughly investigated and every food handler subjected to many repeated laboratory tests. No further cases have been notified.

Food Poisoning.

Five cases occurred in the district. Laboratory specimens from the five patients revealed the causative organism, and an identical strain of the same organism was isolated from pork brawn, which had been eaten by the five cases. The Sanitary Inspectors ensured that the remaining brawn was destroyed.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

No cases of Diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

In 1952, 232 children under five years of age and 4 children over five years of age received primary immunisation against Diphtheria.

A further 230 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years were given a "Booster" or secondary immunisation injection.

The percentage of children under five years of age immunised by the 31st December, 1952, was 54.6%, and the percentage of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years immunised was 74.2%.

As I pointed out in the Report for the year 1951, the success of the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme is rendering parents complacent about the dangers of Diphtheria, and the figures under review now once again indicate this tendency.

Immunisation is given by general practitioners in their surgeries and in the homes, and by the medical staff of the County Council in Infant Welfare Centres and in the schools.

TUBERCULOSIS

		M.	F.	T'l.
Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31.12.52.	Pulmonary	32	29	61
	Non-Pulmonary	12	8	20
Cases removed from the Register during 1952.	Pulmonary	5	1	6
	Non-Pulmonary	2	2	4
Cases added to the Register during 1952.	Pulmonary	5	5	10
	Non-Pulmonary	2	—	2

The total number of cases on the Register at 31.12.52 was 81, an increase of two on last year's figure of 79.

Twelve cases were added to the Register during the year, and 10 cases were removed. Of the 10 removals, four were due to death and six were cured.

Analysis of new cases and deaths during the year.

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non		Pulmonary		Non	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—
35—45	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	4	3	—	3	1	—	—

COMMENTS :

The housing conditions of cases of Tuberculosis are constantly kept under review. Where unsatisfactory and unsuitable conditions have existed, the members of the Council have been most helpful in providing suitable accommodation.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The following arrangements have remained unaltered since 1950 :

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by Lincoln and Peterborough Public Health Laboratories. This district is officially included in the area served by the Lincoln Public Health Laboratory, and specimens for blood and bacteriological investigations are sent there. The shorter distance to Peterborough, however, makes it more convenient to send the more bulky specimens there, and water, milk and ice cream examinations are usually carried out there.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

An efficient and comprehensive service is maintained by the Transport Department of the County Council.

(c) Home Nursing.

A home nursing service is provided by the County Council.

(d) Home Helps.

A home help service is provided by the County Council. The public use this service mainly during illness or in the later months of pregnancy.

(e) Clinic and Treatment Services.

Infant Welfare Centres and Anti-natal clinics are provided by the County Council at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Ophthalmological examinations are provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic. Most of the children are referred to the Eye Specialist from School Medical Examinations or from Infant Welfare Clinics.

Speech Therapy is provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic. Here again most of the children are referred to the Speech Therapist from School Medical Examinations or from Infant Welfare Centres.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are provided at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infants or children requiring treatment not listed above, are referred to the appropriate specialist, and the family practitioner is kept informed.

(f) Hospitals.

The Holbeach Hospital is a general practitioner's hospital, and the various specialists attend at certain times.

(g) National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

Five cases coming within the scope of this Act were dealt with during the year. No legal proceedings were necessary, and they were all dealt with on a voluntary basis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Social Conditions.

Most of the adult male population is engaged in agricultural work. Potatoes, sugar beet, peas, fruit, flowers and bulbs provide seasonal employment for a large number of the adult female population.

Flour milling, canning of fruit and vegetables, agricultural implement manufacture and timber works all provide employment in the area.

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. H. Rippin, the Council's Water Engineer, has supplied the following statistical data and report :

Water in bulk is purchased by the Council under an agreement with the Spalding Urban District Council from their source at Bourne and delivered into an elevated tower at the Council's Booster Station at Weston. From the tower it is fed to the booster pumps situated in a building beneath the tower and pumped throughout the whole area. Two other elevated towers at Little Sutton and Whaplode Drove of 50,000 and 25,000 gallons capacity respectively serve as either feed or balancing tanks.

The total water purchased from the Spalding Urban District Council for the year ended December 31st, 1952, was 205,610,000 gallons.

Bulk supplies are afforded to the Wisbech and District Water Board from four points on the Council's mains, and amounted in total for the year under review to 9,385,000 gallons. The total quantity distributed in the Council's statutory area of supply was 196,225,000 gallons, giving a daily average for the period of 536,134 gallons.

Large quantities of water are distributed for agricultural and horticultural purposes, which are widely influenced by weather conditions causing extreme fluctuations in demand.

Distribution mains have been extended as circumstances and financial conditions permit, and mains water is available to over 98% of the rated hereditaments.

Prospect of progress on the new scheme improved during the year, and a commencement is being made in the early Spring of 1953 in laying the new 12-inch trunk main from Weston to Whap-lode. This should be in service by the late summer, and will considerably reduce the large friction losses in pressure now experienced.

It is hoped that other stages of the new scheme will also be started during the coming year, which includes for a 250,000 gallon storage tank and new pumping station with plant at Weston.

Frequent and regular samples for chemical and bacteriological analysis were taken, and proved highly satisfactory. One sample taken off the dead end of an old steel main at Railway Lane, Sutton Bridge, gave some cause for concern, and a scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for permission to re-lay this main in asbestos cement, which approval is still awaited. A temporary improvement was effected by linking up these dead ends to create better circulation.

Twelve samples of mains water submitted for bacteriological analysis all gave the following result :

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey, 2 days,
37°C—Nil per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli—Nil per 100 ml.

Remarks.—Class 1 (Highly Satisfactory).

Samples of water taken at Railway Lane, Sutton Bridge, gave the following results :

1.—Sample from tap at No. 60, Railway Lane, on 28.10.52 :
Probable number of coliform bacilli — 2 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal bacilli — 2 per 100 ml.

2.—Sample from hydrant at rear of 57, Railway Lane, on
31.10.52 :

Probable number of coliform bacilli — 180 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal bacilli — 5 per 100 ml.

Flushing of dead ends in the water supply pipes was carried out on 31.10.52, and further samples from the houses were found to be satisfactory.

A chemical analysis of a sample of mains water taken from a tap at the Council Offices, Holbeach, gave the following results :

Chemical results in parts per million.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright and clear
Nature of deposit	...	Slight trace of vegetable fibres			
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction	...	...	...	...	Practically neutral
ph value	...	...	...	...	7.25
Taste	...	...	...	...	Satisfactory
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.03
Albuminoid nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.02
Nitrate nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrite nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.004
Chlorine as chlorides	...	...	...	...	22.0

Opinion.—This water is of very good organic quality and the analysis shows no sign of pollution. The water is bright and clear, of satisfactory odour and taste, and, in our opinion, quite suitable for drinking and general purposes.

The following table indicates for each parish the number of dwelling houses and the approximate population supplied from public water mains, either direct to the house (including houses where the supply is by means of a stand tap placed in the curtilage of the house) or by means of stand pipes fitted to the main and supplying several houses. It also indicates where mains water is available but is not taken and where mains water is not available.

The following sections of the Report have been compiled by the Chief and Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

Parish	MEANS OF SUPPLY.				NOT SUPPLIED			
	Direct to Houses.		Standpipes		Water Available		No Water Available	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
Holbeach	1918	6216	3	10	102	330	20	65
Long Sutton	849	2751	2	6	81	263	7	23
Sutton Bridge	873	2830	—	—	21	68	1	3
Fleet	406	1317	1	3	39	126	6	19
Gedney	624	2022	8	26	23	75	17	55
Gedney Hill	116	376	5	16	8	26	3	10
Lutton	263	852	3	10	7	23	2	6
Sutton St. Edmund .	154	499	—	—	11	36	—	—
Sutton St. James	198	641	3	10	3	10	4	13
Little Sutton	43	139	—	—	3	10	1	3
Tydd St. Mary	245	794	3	10	10	32	20	65
Whaplode	478	1549	5	16	47	152	24	79
Whaplode Drove	230	746	1	3	14	45	4	13
Wingland	74	240	—	—	—	—	18	58
Totals	6471	20972	34	110	369	1196	127*	412

* 49 of these houses are supplied by water from undertakings outside this area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There has been little change in the drainage and sewerage arrangements, and conditions are generally as reported in 1951.

The provision of main sewerage schemes in the townships of Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge would solve many problems. Detailed schemes were submitted to the Ministry of Health in 1948, but approval is still awaited.

The gross pollution of certain of the land drainage dykes in and around the urban parts of the district is still a serious cause of nuisance as well as being a potential source of danger to public health.

Practically all the post-war Council Housing Estates are provided with sewers and sewage disposal plants. These disposal plants now number fourteen, and their maintenance is one of the duties of the Health Department.

Nuisance from smell at certain of these plants, built in close proximity to houses, has occurred from time to time during the warmer months of the year. Chlorination of the sewage has helped to reduce this particular nuisance.

All drainage and sewerage work carried out in the area is inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspectors. During the year new drainage systems at 114 privately owned premises were inspected and tested, together with a large number of new drains and sewers at various Council Housing Sites.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Satisfactory public conveniences for men and women are provided at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Health Department is responsible for the collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage, the emptying of sanitary pails, privy-vaults and cesspools, and the disposal of the waste materials. Brief notes follow on the various sections of the Cleansing Service.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal. — A weekly kerbside refuse collection is given to premises in the urban parts of Holbeach, Fleet, Gedney, Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge, Lutton, Gedney Dyke, Holbeach Hurn and Whaplode, and to those properties lying on the roads between these villages.

A similar fortnightly refuse collection service covers practically all the remaining parts of the district with the exception of Wingland. Here, the service is given at four-weekly intervals owing to the sparsely populated nature of the district and the wide separation between properties.

One modern side-loading vehicle and a modern rear-loading moving-floor vehicle are used for refuse collection work.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping in pits or on low-lying land. One site only has been in use during the year. This, being situated at Gedney, was central and convenient for the whole district. Considerable advantage has attached to the use of one site as opposed to the use of a number of sites.

The site in question was originally an undulating grass field, the central portion of which was occupied by several large pits. A drag-line was used by the owners to 'square' the pits up and to remove soil from those parts of the field which were not deep enough for satisfactory tipping. The excavated earth was stock-piled on the site to cover the refuse when tipping was completed. Further supplies of earth have been obtained from time to time when nearby drains were being cleaned out. The owners propose to use a bulldozer to spread this earth. Work at the site should be finished during the summer or early autumn in 1953.

That the work of refuse disposal is being carried out satisfactorily is shown by the fact that no difficulty is now being experienced in the obtaining of pits for refuse disposal purposes. Sites for the next few years have already been prepared and are ready for use.

(b) Salvage Collection and Disposal.—Salvage is collected at the same time as the refuse in both urban and rural areas. A trailer is attached to each refuse vehicle for this purpose. In addition, special collections are made when the quantities and types of material make it necessary.

The very satisfactory waste paper market reported in last year's Report collapsed early in 1952. In December, 1951, baled mixed waste paper was worth £16 per ton. In March, 1952, prices began to fall, and by July mixed waste was only £6 10s. per ton. Even at this price difficulty was experienced in effecting disposal.

A similar position to this occurred in 1949, when prices dropped to a very low level due to a glut in collections. However, it was not envisaged that when prices were on the upgrade, as in 1951, that the persons controlling the market would once more allow matters to get out of hand with consequent drastic fall in prices.

Details are given below of the weights and values of the salvage sold during 1952 :

Material.	Tons cwts. qrs.			£	s.	d.
Mixed waste paper & cardboard	154	13	3	1549	15	7
Textiles	4	3	3	97	17	8
Ferrous Metals	24	9	3	69	4	8
Non-ferrous Metals		9	3	29	17	5
Sundries				5	9	3
	183	17	0	£1752	4	7

This is equivalent to the product of a sixpenny rate.

The following table gives the values of salvage sold since 1940 :

During 1940 sales were made to the value of £338								
„	1941	„	„	„	„	„	„	£625
„	1942	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1348
„	1943	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1125
„	1944	„	„	„	„	„	„	£852
„	1945	„	„	„	„	„	„	£686
„	1946	„	„	„	„	„	„	£634
„	1947	„	„	„	„	„	„	£805
„	1948	„	„	„	„	„	„	£986
„	1949	„	„	„	„	„	„	£766
„	1950	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1089
„	1951	„	„	„	„	„	„	£2883
„	1952	„	„	„	„	„	„	£1752

(c) **Sanitary Pail Collection and Disposal.**—A weekly evening collection is made from about 900 premises in the urban parts of Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. A modern cesspool emptier fitted with a special hopper tank is used for this purpose.

New types of composting tanks have been devised for the disposal of night soil. Two are in use. One at Fleet Church End and one at the Holbeach Depot Site.

The one at Fleet is on privately-owned land. It is ten yards square and two yards deep. Simple and cheap construction was effected by excavating about two feet and lining bottom and sides with straw bales. The excavated earth was used to form a strengthening bank around the tank. Underdraining was effected with land drains discharging into a properly constructed brick soakaway. Night soil is discharged into the tank and then covered with loose straw. Satisfactory composting appears to be taking place, and it is thought the tank will last about five to six months. It will then be left for a period before being excavated and ploughed into adjoining land.

The tank at the Holbeach Depot is similarly constructed and is working satisfactorily. Further tanks are being constructed at this site, and experiments are proceeding with the composting of cesspool contents. The necessary straw for composting is being provided by the farmers who have agreed to dispose of the finished compost.

(d) **Cesspool and Vault Emptying.**—The emptying of cesspools and vaults is carried out with two modern cesspool emptying vehicles. Privy vaults are emptied free of charge whenever application is made. Cesspools are emptied free of charge provided that

HOUSING

Progress continues to be made in connection with the development of Council Housing Estates. The position at 20th May, 1953, is shown below :

(a) Permanent Houses.

Houses erected under all schemes prior to 1945 ...	869
Houses completed since 1945	492
Houses under erection	70
Further houses proposed to be erected	296

(b) Temporary Bungalows.

Erected at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge	69
Ex-R.A.F. Hutments converted at Sutton Bridge	42

During 1952 the following dwellings were completed :

By the Council	96
By private enterprise	26

Overcrowding. — Three cases were investigated during the year and reports were made to the Council.

Applications for Council Houses.—A “points” scheme is used in the selection of tenants for Council Houses and this is based on a number of factors such as condition of applicant’s house; size, age and sex of family; illness; service in H.M.’s Forces; period on waiting list and so on. At the present time there are 1,045 applications on the list.

The Health Department is often asked to report on the conditions of applicants and due regard is paid to such reports which are attached to the Housing Application Form. Particular attention is paid to those where cases of tuberculosis are involved. As a matter of policy reports on housing applications, save in exceptional cases, are only made when a request has been made by a member of the Council.

General.—Many of the older dwellings are in need of repair and attention. Defects vary considerably in degree. Post-war repair charges and pre-war rents provide the good owner with a serious problem and the bad owner with a good excuse for the non-carrying out of repairs.

No regular and systematic survey of dwellings has been made and inspections are only carried out when complaints have been made regarding unsatisfactory conditions.

It is possible that the numbers of complaints would be larger but for the fact that tenants appreciate the much lower rent attaching to the older cottage as opposed to the post-war council house.

It is interesting to note that appreciable numbers of properties are being modernised and provided with amenities by the owners. This is particularly noticeable in respect of dwellings owned by farmers in the more rural parts of the area. Only in this way can the better type of worker be retained.

Moveable Dwellings. — Caravans do not provide a serious problem in this district. Those in use are generally of a very satisfactory type. They are well kept and, in the main, are situated singly on sites in the rural parts of the area.

Licences in respect of moveable dwellings ...	...	...	...	19
Licences in respect of sites ...	...	...	...	5

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Lack of staff has precluded the regular and systematic inspection of food premises. Visits are made as often as is possible to those where it is felt attention is most needed. It is pleasing to relate that food premises generally are in and are kept in a satisfactory way.

The Council is a participant in the County of Holland Clean Food Campaign. A Clean Food Week was held throughout the County in July and shops holding the Clean Food Certificate displayed posters and other propaganda drawing the public's attention to the need for Clean Food. Although there would appear to be an increasing awareness on the part of the public to the need for "Clean Food" the reaction of the public to the Clean Food Week was very lukewarm and it is this apathy that is the chief stumbling block.

Clean Food Certificates have been issued in respect of the following premises.

Butchers' Shops .	...	...	...	...	9
Grocery Stores ...	...	...	...	...	8
Fried and Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	3
Catering Establishments .	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Factory ...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakery .	...	...	...	...	1

Their distribution through the district is as follows :—

Holbeach ...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Long Sutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sutton Bridge	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gedney .	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whaplode ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fleet ...	...	...	...	...	...	1

(a) Milk.

1. Milk Distributors.

12 milk distributors are registered with the Council.
5 premises are registered as Dairies.

2. Designated Milk.

The increase in the sales of bottled, pasteurised milk still continues throughout the district. Raw milk is now only being sold by a few producer/retailers and the quantity involved is quite small.

The pasteurised milk sold in the district is produced at four pasteurising establishments all of which are situated outside the area. Two are at King's Lynn, one is at Peterborough and the other is at Pinchbeck near Spalding. In addition, sterilised milk comes from a Grimsby plant.

The following licences to use the special milk designations were issued during 1952. Licences are issued annually, expiring 31st December.

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)	.					1

3. Sampling.

18 samples of bottled pasteurised milk and one bottle of sterilised milk were collected and submitted for examination during the year. Results show that all but one of the samples conformed to the standards laid down. The sample not conforming was one of tuberculin tested pasteurised milk. Further samples all proved satisfactory.

It is interesting to note in the results how often samples conforming to the required standards under the Regulations were found to contain B. Coli.

No. of Samples	Producer	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test		B. Coli Tubes		
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	1	2	3
4	A	4	—	4	—	2	1	1
6	B	6	—	6	—	2	2	2
6	C	6	—	6	—	1	1	1
2	D	1	1	2	—	2	2	2
1*	E	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

* Sterilised milk.

The results of all samples taken are passed to the licensing authorities of the areas where the milk is produced.

(b) Ice Cream.

Details of Register on 31st December, 1952.

Licences for Manufacture and Sale	.	...	...	...	1
Licences for Sale only	...	...	...	...	47

There is only one manufacturer of ice cream in the district. The premises and methods are satisfactory and comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. Wrapped ice cream

only is sold at the majority of the shops. Twenty samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination. Details of the results are given below.

Type of Sample		Where Produced		Methylene Blue			
Loose	Wrapped	E.E.R.D.	Outside Area	Provisional Grade			
				1	2	3	4
5	15	4	16	18	1	—	1

Information regarding the one unsatisfactory sample was forwarded to the manufacturer concerned. A breakdown in the electric freezer at a storage depot is believed to have been the cause.

(c) Meat Inspection.

Commercial slaughter of animals for human consumption is not carried out in this district and only a limited number of car-cases have had to be inspected. These are cottagers pigs, half of which were to be sold to the Ministry, or animals slaughtered for emergency reasons.

(d) Food Inspection.

The following foodstuffs, generally in the possession of local tradesmen were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed. A list is given below.

- 770 tins of various Canned Foods.
- 32 jars of Preserves and Pickles.
- 54³/₄ lbs. of Prunes.
- 5³/₄ lbs. of Gorgonzola Cheese.
- 270 cartons of Processed Cheese.
- 2¹/₂ lbs. of Cheese Trimmings.
- 2¹/₂ lbs. of Shoulder Ham — Flyblown.
- 11¹/₄ lbs. of Leg Pork — Bruising.
- 164 lbs. of Pork — Decomposition.
- 956 lbs. of Beef — Bone taint and decomposition.
- 3 lbs. of Oxtail — Decomposition.
- 71³/₄ lbs. of Mutton — Decomposition.
- 1¹/₂ lbs. of Lamb Sweetbreads — Decomposition.

RODENT CONTROL

The control scheme in operation in this district is approved by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and so ranks for grant.

A part-time rodent operator is employed on the work. Only one major infestation was found during the year and treatments were, in the main, in respect of minor infestations.

Close liaison exists between the Pests Officer of the Holland County Council Agricultural Executive Committee and the Health Department of this Council. This is of very considerable value particularly in the avoiding of duplication of survey work.

The following table shows the amount of work done.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Private Dwellings	Agricul- tural Property	All Other including Business Properties	Totals
Total Number of Properties in District	42	6719	1867	1043	9671
Number of Properties inspected by the Local Authority	(a) 2	40	1	6	49
during 1952 as a result of (a) Notifi- cation, (b) Survey, or otherwise ...	(b) 23	52	1	13	99
Number of Properties inspected which were found to be infested with rats ...	Maj. 1	—	—	—	1
	Min. 11	20	2	6	39
Number of Properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice ...	—	1	—	—	1
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority .	12	21	2	6	41

INSECT CONTROL

Disinfestation against insect pests is carried out whenever a request is made. A charge is made for such work. D.D.T. preparations are in general use in all control work.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

During the year 22 inspections were made of factory premises in the district. One written notice was served in connection with insufficient closet accommodation. There were no prosecutions.

